

In The Specification:

On page 23, please replace the paragraph beginning with line number 21 with the following new amended paragraph.

The V_L and V_H portions of a monoclonal antibody can also be linked by a synthetic linker to form a single chain protein (scFv) which retains the same specificity and affinity for the antigen as the monoclonal antibody itself. Bird, R. E., et al. (1988) "Single-chain antigen-binding proteins" Science 242: 423-426. A typical scFv is a recombinant polypeptide composed of a V_L tethered to a V_H by a designed peptide, such as (Gly₄-Ser)₃, SEQ ID NO:3 that links the carboxyl terminus of the V_L, to the amino terminus of the V_H sequence. The construction of the DNA sequence encoding a scFv can be achieved by using a universal primer encoding the (Gly₄-Ser)₃ linker by polymerase chain reactions (PCR). Lake, D. F., et al. (1995) "Generation of diverse single-chain proteins using a universal (Gly₄-Ser)₃ encoding oligonucleotide" Biotechniques 19: 700-702.